1	2	3
13.	Physically Handicapped self-empolyed	1,765
14.	Primary Milk Producers	2,95,001
15.	Rickshaw Pullers/Auto Drivers	41,504
16.	Safai Karamcharis	14,456
17.	Salt Growers	45,801
18.	Tendu Leaf Collectors	21,20,499
19.	Scheme for Urban Poor	1,32,454
20.	Forest Workers	1,47,519
21.	Sericulture	221
22.	Toddy Tappers	526
23.	Powerloom Workers	0
	TOTAL	39,65,704

Industrial Alcohol

1896. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have worked out any shceme to rationalise levies and duties imposed on the various State Governments on industrial alcohol particularly in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether molasses from Khandasari units is likely to be utilised for increasing the supply of industrial alcohol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Government formulates its policies and schemes regarding levies and duties to be imposed on various items of manufacture including industrial alcohol which are incorporated in the Annual Budget.

(c) and (d) the Central Government does not regulate distribution of molasses, including Khandasari molasses, after rescinding the Molasses Control Order, 1961 on 10th June, 1993.

Utilization of the Services of Retired Judges

1897. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of retired Supreme Court/High Court Judges to reduce the pendency of cases in Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c). The Government has not favoured the appointment of retired Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Employment on Fake SC/ST Certificates in Banks

1898. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that several hundred non-SC/ST candidates are in employment in nationalised banks all over the country by producing fake caste certificates;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against such candidates; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Joint Venture between Indo-Japan

1899. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussion regarding joint venture between the Union Government and Suzuki Motor Corporation was held recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of talks and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) Yes, Sir. Discussions between the Industry Minister and Mr. O. Suzuki, President, Suzuki Motor Corporation were held on 4th and 5th July, 1996.

(b) The discussions resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, the approach to be taken on several issues such as the broad parameters for expansion, transfer of technology etc. of Maruti Udyog Limited.

[English]

Rise

Impact of Price Rise on Foreign Debt

1900. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the recent hike in power tarriffs by many States and the steep increase in the prices of petroleum products by

the Union Government are going to make the cost of living for the average citizen higher by at least 20% as against a rise of 1.2% in W.P.I. estimated by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government made any realistic estimate of the consequential effects of these hikes on the country's balance of payments positions and foreign exchange reserves; and

(c) the steps the Government take to ensure that imports hereafter would not be costlier and international competition for country's exporters less difficult.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The extent of increase in the cost of living will depend on many factors like intensity of use of power and petroleum products in other products as inputs, the increase in productivity in these sectors, extent of subsidy and the overall stance of monetary policy etc. Increased energy efficiency will also contain the increase in the cost of living.

The recent increase in the prices of petroleum products, however, is anticipated by the Ministry of Petroleum to directly result in a one-time jump in the cost of living of around 1 per cent. Furthermore, during the period from July 7, 1995 to July 6, 1996, the rise in the price of electricity contributed less than one half of a percentage point to the overall point to point inflation of 4.4 per cent.

(b) The long overdue upward revision in domestic administered prices of petroleum products will reduce the overall subsidy on such products, promote energy conservation and dampen the demand for such products. This will help in containing the build up of unsustainable pressure from petroleum products on the balance of payments and our foreign exchange reserve.

(c) Costs of imports in foreign exchange depend and will continue to depend upon international prices.

International competitiveness of our exports depends upon the real exchange rate of the Rupee vis-a-vis the currencies of our trade partners. Although the exchange rate is market determined, the overall stance of policies is geared towards maintaining the competitiveness of India's exports. Various export promotion measures also strengthen our competitiveness. Furthermore, the RBI intervenes in the Foreign Exchange market to maintain orderly market conditions.

Policy on Tobacco Industry

1901. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make a new policy on Tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to invivte in views of multinational manufacturers of the aforesaid industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment

1902. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total capital investment in the country after liberalisation and out of it how much of it went into the production of consumer goods;

(b) the present stand of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any estimate of its effect on the people and industry of the country has been made by the Government; and

(d) whether the Government will restrict foreign investment into the areas where the domestic industry is not competitive so that no harm is caused to small and medium scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d). The gross capital investment has increased from Rs. 1,44,024 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 2,38,410 crores in 1994-95. During the period from 1.8.91 to 31.05.96, Rs. 71036.68 crores of foreign direct investment including in consumer goods sector have been approved by the Government. Under the Policy governing foreign investment, 22 specified consumer sectors invite the condition of dividend balancing i.e. repatriation of profits (dividends) over 7 years period must be balanced by export earning.

There is provision for reservation of more than 800 items for small scale sector. If a non-small sector unit wants to manufacture items reserved for small scale sector they have to undertake an export obligation of 75%.

[English]

Decline in Export of Traditional Items

1903. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of traditional items like cashew, coir products, spices and other agricultural products has declined both in volume as well as in value terms during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;